AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph no. [007] starting at page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

These and other objects are achieved, according to the invention, in that, after the start of a second or a further compressor assembly which are driven by gas turbines, the rotational speeds of the running compressor assemblies are run in a fixed rotational speed ratio with respect to characteristic-map data filed for each compressor assembly; thereafter this fixed rotational speed ratio is varied by means of an equal-percentage throughflow quantity adjustment via the rotational speed, until surge prevention valves of the natural-gas compression station are closed; thereafter the operating points of the compressor assemblies in their characteristic maps are lead as far as possible toward the maximum efficiency line; thereafter, in a continuous operating mode of the natural-gas compression station, optimum rotational-speed desired values are determined by a reciprocal mutually coordinated variation of the rotational-speed desired values of the compressor assemblies, the fuel consumption of the natural-gas compression station being taken into account; and, on the basis of optimum rotational-speed desired values thus determined, the stored fixed rotational speed ratio is adjusted and stored.

Please replace the paragraph no. [013] at page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

The invention is explained in more detail below with reference to an embodiment,

Fig. 1 showing compressor characteristic maps of compressor assemblies, ~~and~~

Fig. 2 showing an operating and observation surface of a PC monitor used for controlling a compressor station~~.~~

Fig. 3 showing a movement of an operating point in a base load compressor characteristic map of a compressor assembly in the related art, and

Fig. 4 showing a movement of an operating point in a peak load compressor characteristic map of a compressor assembly in the related art.

Please replace the paragraph no. [014] at page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

A natural-gas compression station has a multiplicity of individual compressor assemblies which have at least partially different drive machines and different rotors. This is attributable, for example, to the fact that some compressor assemblies are provided for covering basic-load operation and other compressor assemblies are provided for covering peak-load operation. An example of a characteristic map of a compressor assembly in the related art for covering basic-load operation is shown in FIG. 3. FIG. 4 shows an example of a characteristic map of a compressor assembly in the related art provided for covering peak-load operation. Four operating points are shown, a first operating point located on the pump protection line in FIG. 3 and a second operating point located to the right of the characteristic map in FIG. 4. The points represent operating points of two related art compressor assemblies that start operating at the same rotational speed. The two operating points move to the respective operating points after optimization within the characteristic maps when the operation of both related art compressor assemblies is optimized.

Please replace the paragraph no. [015] at page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, in order to optimize the operation of a plurality of compressor assemblies of a natural-gas compression station, after the successful start of a further or additional compressor assembly of the natural-gas compression station, a station controller of the natural-gas compression station will run the rotational speeds of the now operative compressor assemblies of the natural-gas compression station in a fixed rotational speed ratio to the characteristic-map data filed for each compressor assembly.